

[www.SacredSitesJourneys.com](http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com)

Since 1994...Spiritual Pilgrimages to the world's most important Sacred Sites  
to enliven your Body, Mind and Spirit

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## Sacred Sites Journeys E-Newsletter

October 2011

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**Andrea Mikana-Pinkham**  
Director, Sacred Sites Journeys

**IRELAND**

**Memories from our Spiritual Pilgrimage to Sacred Sites  
September 15 - 24, 2011**

[www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/Ireland-Sept2011/Ireland-Sept2011.htm](http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/Ireland-Sept2011/Ireland-Sept2011.htm)



**Last month I journeyed through the Emerald Isle with twelve Spiritual Sisters on an amazingly subtle, yet very powerfully transformative pilgrimage to sacred wells, stone circles, passage tombs, faery glens and more!**



**During the first part of our journey we stayed at a charming B and B in **Killarney**, located close to town, but far enough away that we felt we were in the countryside. The setting was in a lush little glen full of old trees, with a creek running by. Many of us could hear the water from our rooms at night - so soothing!**

**And the hospitality of our host and hostess Conor and Bridget was the BEST! Any and all of our needs were met with grace, efficiency and warmth. In case you're traveling to Killarney and want to stay with them, check out their website at [www.GleannFia.com/](http://www.GleannFia.com/) and tell them Andrea from Sacred Sites Journeys sent you, so you'll get the "family" treatment!**

**While staying in Killarney we explored the powerful sacred sites in Co. Kerry and Co. Cork for 4 days. On our first day we set out to visit Innisfallen Island in the Lower Lake of beautiful **Killarney National Park**. As we plowed across the choppy waters in our motorboard in between light morning showers, we were blessed with a Rainbow in all its glory! A perfect way to begin our spiritual pilgrimage....**



On **Innisfallen Island** we visited the ruins of the 12th Century Augustinian Monastery, with plenty of time to wander in among the ancient buildings, walk the little path to the other side of the island, talk to the ancient Yew tree, and meditate on Gratitude in the remains of the Hiberno-Romanesque church, replete with its Celtic Cross.



The next day took us out of Killarney to the small Gaelic-speaking dual villages of **Balleyvourney & Ballymakeera**, where we visited **St. Gobnait's Sacred Well, Her shrine and grave**. In the cemetery we connected with one of the few remaining in-situ **Sheela-Na-Gigs** in Ireland. This ancient symbol of woman's freedom and creativity is located over one of the windows in the medieval church. She is perhaps one of the the last vestiges of the pagan connection with Celtic Christianity.



As women have been doing for centuries, we rubbed Her body and focused on drawing the

energies of creativity to assist us in manifesting our own dreams  
- new projects, next steps on our paths in life,  
and for one of our Sisters...a healthy daughter to be born in the Spring!

On September 18th we headed out of Killarney again.  
Our first stop was in the small nearby village of **Lisivegeen**,  
where we visited the ancient, off-the-beaten-track **Seven Sisters Stone Circle**.  
We took time for a group meditation and also had free time to connect with these feminine  
energies that have held space here for millennia.



Then we drove to **Kenmare** to visit to the 5,000 year-old Bronze Age  
**Druid Stone Circle**, where we took time to enjoy a group meditation,  
as well as individual meditation and exploration of this ancient sacred site.  
Bohruns came out to be played, as some of our sisters used this shamanic tool  
for healing and accessing other states of consciousness.



After lunch and a bit of highly enjoyable Retail Therapy,  
we headed back to Killarney, stopping at  
**Torc Waterfall** in Killarney National Park. As we relaxed beside the running water, we took  
time to meditate and connect with the magical energies of the Faerie Folk that inhabit this  
natural wonderland!

Our next day was the drive around the **Ring of Kerry**,  
a winding scenic route on the Iveragh Peninsula,  
which many people claim has the best in scenery that Ireland has to offer!  
We stopped to view **ancient stones with Ogham writing** on them,  
an alphabet that was used in Ireland in the 5th century CE.



Then drove some more to **Cahersiveen** and took a short walk to a nearby ancient **dry stone fort** built by the first Celts around 600 CE.  
After time for individual mediation and exploration, we returned to Killarney.

On September 20th we left Killarney to make our way to Dublin.  
We stopped near the little village of **Bruff** to visit the **Grange Stone Circle**, where I led the group in a Maiden, Mother, Crone Meditation to connect with the Goddess Aine, for whom the circle was built.



Then we continued to Dublin, arriving later afternoon.

The next day we visited the town of **Kildare**.  
**Brigidine Sister Mary Minehan** graciously welcomed us to the **Solas Bhríde Center**, dedicated to the Goddess Bridget / St. Bridget.  
She shared stories, songs and a special sacred dance to help us connect with the energies of this very ancient Mother Goddess.  
In a Sacred Flame Ceremony Sister Mary lit candles we had purchased to support the Center from the Eternal Flame that has been burning there since 1993, when it was re-lit by a sister of their Order in memory of Bridget and Her priestesses who tended the flame in ancient times!  
As a gift to our group, Sister Mary showed us how to weave a Bridget's Cross and gave it to us to take home. We felt so blessed!



We learned that the Dalai Lama had visited the center earlier this year and gave support to their efforts to create a new unique ecologically sustainable Center and Hermitages.

They've created a €4.75 million Development Plan for this and have already raised €3.00 million, so only have a bit more to manifest.

For more information and if you'd like to donate to this worth cause, visit [www.SolasBhride.ie/](http://www.SolasBhride.ie/)

After lunch in Kildare at the Silken Thomas Pub, we visited **St. Bridget's Cathedral**. In the churchyard is the site of the original Eternal Flame, and the 2nd tallest Irish Round Tower in the country.



On our way out of town we stopped at **Bridget's Well**. I read the walking meditation in the book "Rekindle the Flame" that I had purchased from the Solas Bhride Center. Then we had free time to just "be" at this very peaceful site dedicated to the Mother Goddess of Ireland.



September 22nd was our day to visit **Newgrange** and the **Hill of Tara**. Located in the Boyne Valley 30 miles north of Dublin, Newgrange is one of the world's most important sacred sites, dating back to Neolithic times, with its spectacular **world-famous passage grave** containing kerb stones engraved with megalithic art.

We entered the passage tomb as a group, with Lisa, our on-site guide. Who was a font of knowledge about the history of the site, as well as various theories.

AND...she expertly used lighting to re-enact the winter solstice sun entering the burial chamber as it does each year on December 21st, exactly as planned by the Ancient Ones who built it. Awesome!



Our last stop for the day and our last sacred site we visited was the Hill of Tara, the Mother Womb of Ireland, where the High Kings were crowned and the **Stone of Destiny** (below) "roared" to announce the rightful one. There were no other people there as I led our closing ceremony and meditation around the stone. We were able to absorb the still-palpable powerful energies of the land of Eiru, named after that Goddess. So peaceful and yet very powerful at the same time!



On Friday, September 23rd, our last day in Ireland, we enjoyed a free day in **Dublin**, with time for visiting the Book of Kells, the National Archaeology Museum, St. Stephen's Green, and of course - Retail Therapy!

Our Sacred Sites Journey ended with a Farewell Dinner at our hotel, combined with **The Irish House Party**, a rousing evening of music, dance, laughter and sharing.



Here are what some of our recent Sacred Sites Journeys had to say about their pilgrimage:

*My Ireland experience was amazing!*

*The green of Ireland is luminescent and more alive than any green I have ever seen. I felt honored to be there in the presence of ancient trees and stones who had amazing energy to share with us.*

*I received messages that they were very happy we were there.*

*The meditations we did helped to centre my experience and to bring us together as a group on the journey together.*

*I experienced an amazing reconnection with myself and I am grateful to move forward in the next phase of my life with renewed love and trust in the Goddess.*

**Colleen W. - Canada**

*I was able to connect with my unborn daughter and began to develop a bond.*

*I formed wonderful friendships that I plan to continue.*

**Kerry B. - MA**

*Ireland is vibrant with beauty, good energy and great people.*

*The sacred sites on this journey are awe-inspiring, interesting & peacefilled.  
I highly recommend this pilgrimage.*

**Lynn M. - KS**

*For me the tour was nice, rather laid-back.  
I appreciated the fact that ceremonies were optional and could be attended if wished.  
I enjoyed connecting with the other travelers and understanding more about the sites.  
I feel that joining the tour has enriched my life.*

**Mehera S. - Australia**

*The English language is ill-equipped to describe my experience on the  
Sacred Sites Journeys tour to Ireland.  
I simply cannot find the words to do the experience justice.  
Suffice it to say it has been life-changing,  
self-assuring & affirmative and has given me the opportunity  
to connect with the magick of my ancestors,  
my sacred feminine, my kindred sisters and this fabulous land of the Mother.  
I can only wish for all sentient beings to have the desire and opportunity to experience  
a divine connection with Gaia that will perpetually sustain and nourish Her  
as much as it can nourish us!*

**Lisa E. - Australia**

**Our next Sacred Sites Journey to IRELAND will be in September, 2013.**

**I'm planning this pilgrimage to actually be two separate journeys.**

**The first one will be to most of the sites we visited on the September 2011 one,  
as I've just described above.**

**The 2nd journey will begin in Shannon and move on to sacred sites near Galway, the Aran  
Islands, Connemara, Sligo, Carrowmore and Carrowkeel,  
and we'll end up at Newgrange and the Hill of Tara.  
You can come with me on either of these, or BOTH!**



**I invite you to join us for a Sacred Sites Journey in late 2011 to EGYPT,  
or to Turkey, Egypt, England, and Peru 2012!  
Read on for more details!**

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**Upcoming Sacred Sites Journeys**

**2011 and 2012**  
**Listed by date and destination**

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**OCTOBER 2011: PERU**  
**Mystical Journey to Machu Picchu**  
**October 10 - 17, 2011**

**Our Featured Speaker and Tour Host Mark Amaru Pinkham will be guiding our group on this awesome spiritual pilgrimage.**



**Author, Andean Shamanic Practitioner  
and Mesa Carrier in the Inca Spiritual Tradition**

For complete details, pricing and a registration form, visit  
<http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/Peru-Oct2011/Peru-October2011.htm>

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**OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011: EGYPT**



**Sacred Journey of Initiation**  
**October 31 - November 13, 2011**

**Celebrate 11.11.11 with us in Egypt!**  
**During our private entrance into the King's Chamber of the GREAT PYRAMID!**

**Travel to Egypt has resumed and is safe!**  
**Many tourists are returning! Especially spiritual seekers.**  
**Those of you who come with us this Fall will have positive life-transforming experiences in a setting that is protected and unique!**  
**The crowds will be smaller, and we'll have more time for our meditations and initiations in the**

ancient pyramids and sacred temples.

**\*\* PRICE REDUCTION \*\***

We've reduced the pricing for this awesome spiritual pilgrimage  
by over \$400.00!

And we won't be able to offer such a deeply discounted price again!  
So NOW is the time to make your dreams of travel to Egypt come true!

**\*\* We only have 2 places left in our smaller group of spiritual seekers.\*\***

Is one of them yours?

The deadline to register is October 14, 2011,  
or sooner if the group fills before that date.

Please reserve your space soon in order to avoid disappointment.



**Andrea Mikana-Pinkham**

**Featured Speaker/Ceremonialist/Tour Director**

*During our meditations in the ancient pyramids and sacred temples at the chakra sites  
along the Nile, I'll use my unique **Lapis Crystal Bowl**  
to facilitate sound activations that will support your initiations  
into higher levels of consciousness!*

***Please be assured that it's safe to travel in Egypt again.***

*The Egyptian people are welcoming their brothers and sisters back with open arms.  
Besides the group I led there in June/July, I know of several other sacred travel groups  
who have been there since February, and had the time of their lives!  
I know that you will too if you join me there in October/November.*

**Egyptologist Dr. Vivian Zaky, PhD**



**SPECIAL PRIVATE GROUP ENTRANCES For Meditation and Initiation!**

**GIZA:** The King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid



**ASWAN:** The Temple of Isis



**Other Sacred Sites We'll Experience in and near GIZA:**

The seldom-visited, off-the-beaten path enigmatic site of **ABU GHUROB**

Commune with the timeless energies of the ancient **SPHINX**,  
the oldest statue on our planet

Exploration and sacred sound healing experiences at the **RED PYRAMID** at Dashur and at  
ancient **SAKKARA**

**Special Offerings in LUXOR, during the NILE CRUISE and in ASWAN:**

**LUXOR**

**SEKHMET'S CHAPEL** at **KARNAK:**

Initiation as a Priest or Priestess of Her ancient healing tradition

**KARNAK TEMPLE:** Initiation into the Mysteries of Amon-Ra and Mut

**LUXOR TEMPLE:** Explore the Symbolist Theory of the Temple of Man  
and the Third Eye mysteries of this ancient power spot  
at night under the starry Egyptian sky

**WEST BANK:** Initiation into the Divine Feminine Energies at Hatshepsut's Temple  
Explore the Mysteries of Death & Resurrection  
in the ancient tombs in the Valley of the Kings

**ABYDOS**

Initiation into the Mysteries of Osiris

**DENDERA**

Initiation into the Greater Mysteries of Hathor

Includes visit to the Crypt and the Dendera Zodiacs

During the **NILE CRUISE:**  
Strengthen your Higher Self Connection at the Temple of Horus at **EDFU**  
Initiation to Balance your Inner Light & Dark  
at the Temple of Sobek/Haoeris at **KOM OMBO**

**ASWAN**  
**PRIVATE ENTRANCE** at the **TEMPLE OF ISIS**  
for an Initiation into Her Divine Feminine Mysteries

Empowerment Initiation from Khnum, the Divine Potter, on **ELEPHANTINE ISLAND**

Your unique Gifts of Spirit await you in Egypt this Fall  
during our entire Sacred Journey of Initiation,  
and especially on 11.11.11 in the **GREAT PYRAMID!**

For a detailed itinerary, pricing and a registration form  
for our Fall 2011 Journey to EGYPT, visit:

<http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/Egypt-OctNov2011/Egypt-OctNov2011.htm>

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By Popular Demand...  
A NEW Sacred Sites Journeys Destination!  
**APRIL 2012: TURKEY**



**Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Sacred Sites of the Goddess**  
**April 15 - 26, 2012**  
With an Extension to 12,000 Year Old Site of Gobekli Tepe  
**April 25 - 29, 2012**

**This spiritual pilgrimage is already quickly filling!**  
**If you want to join us, please reserve your space soon!**

**Journey with other like-minded sacred travelers  
to powerful Goddess sites in Turkey!**

**The image of the divine as female is as old as humanity.  
The Goddess was prevalent in all known cultures in prehistoric times.  
Archaeologists have unearthed artifacts related to Goddess religion  
that are 30,000 years old!**

**In ancient Anatolia, you'll explore Her sacred sites and be enfolded by the loving arms of  
this timeless "Nourishing Mother".  
This awesome gem of a sacred travel destination offers you the unique opportunity  
to visit many ancient sites of the Sacred Feminine!**

**Uncovered from the sands of time, these potent Goddess sites  
will bring the Divine Feminine alive for you!  
Her traces are not only present here for you today,  
but are as vital and compelling as they were in the past!**

### **Her Temples You'll Visit:**



**TROY:** Temple of Athena

**PERGAMON:** Temples to Athena, Isis and Serapis

**SARDIS:** Artemis Temple, Temples of Cybele and Diana



**EPHESUS:** Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World; St. Mary's Cottage and Sacred Well



**APHRODISIAS:**  
Temple of Aphrodite



**ÇATAL HOYUK:**  
Neolithic site where the

Mother Goddess was revered and venerated

**OTHER IMPORTANT SITES YOU'LL VISIT:**



**EPHESUS:** Concert Hall, Fountains, the Temples, Temple of the Sacred Prostitutes, the Celsus Library, Museum of Ephesus, the Agoras, the Roman Baths, Gymnasiums



**PAMUKKALE:** Travertine Terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage site  
We'll have a free day here to rest, relax and enjoy the hot springs!

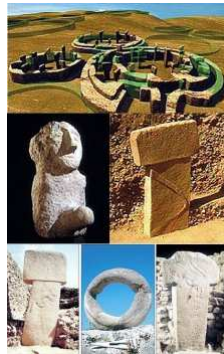


**KONYA:** Tomb of Jalal al-Din Rumi,  
poet, mystic and founder of the Mevlevi,  
or whirling dervish sect  
Mevlana Museum, former monastery of the whirling dervishes

### **SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR YOU!**

During our sacred journey you'll be able to focus on the feminine faces of the Divine through: ritual, meditation, guided visualizations, dream incubation, channelings, divinations & sounding/toning to facilitate a deepening relationship with and understanding of the Goddess.  
Group Sharing during our evening dinners.

### **EXTENSION TO GOBEKLI TEPE**



Explore this vast archaeological site with its compelling **implications for re-writing history!**  
**One of the oldest place of worship yet discovered;** it was settled before Çatal Hoyuk.  
Your time there will allow you to connect with the **great mystery about the history of Anatolia**  
and the **development of human societies,**  
especially with regards to the matriarchal **Mother Goddess influences** that the site reveals.

**This spiritual pilgrimage is already quickly filling!  
If you want to join us, please reserve your space soon!**

**For complete itinerary details, pricing and a registration form, visit:**

**<http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/Turkey-April2012/Turkey-April2012.htm>**

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## **Other Sacred Sites Journeys Coming in 2012!**

### **JUNE**

**ENGLAND: Sacred Journey of Initiation to Avalon**

**June 3 - 9, 2012**

**(During the Auspicious Venus Transit on June 5th,  
which Will Focus More Energies of Love on Our Earth  
and Support You to More Fully Open Your Heart!)**

**Featured Speaker: Andrea Mikana-Pinkham**

**[Information to be posted soon on our website.](#)**

### **AUGUST**

**PERU: Mystical Journey to Machu Picchu & Lake Titicaca**

**August 5 - 14, 2012**

**Featured Speaker: Andrea Mikana-Pinkham**

**[Information to be posted soon on our website.](#)**

### **NOVEMBER**

**EGYPT: A Women's Priestess Initiation Journey**

**Initiations to Connect with Your Inner Isis, Hathor, Sekhmet,  
Seshat, Mut and other Egyptian Goddesses**

**November 3 - 15, 2012**

**Featured Speaker: Andrea Mikana-Pinkham**

**[Information to be posted soon on our website.](#)**

**More Sacred Sites Journeys in 2012 being finalized!  
Stay tuned for more information in future issues of our newsletter,  
or visit our website for updated information:**

**<http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/tourlistings.htm>**

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**Quick Links...**

**Our Website**

**[www.SacredSitesJourneys.com](http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com)**

**Upcoming 2011 & 2012 Sacred Sites Journeys**  
**[www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/tourlistings.htm](http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/tourlistings.htm)**

**Books by Mark Amaru Pinkham**  
**[www.GnosticTemplars.org/books.html](http://www.GnosticTemplars.org/books.html)**

**Astrology Services with Mark Amaru Pinkham**  
**[www.GnosticTemplars.org/astrology.html](http://www.GnosticTemplars.org/astrology.html)**

**About Us**  
**[www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/about.htm](http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/about.htm)**

**The International Order of Gnostic Templars - A Modern Spiritual Templar Order  
Dedicated to the Revival of Gnostic Wisdom and the Divine Feminine**  
**[www.GnosticTemplars.org/index.html](http://www.GnosticTemplars.org/index.html)**

**Other Recommended Links from Our Website**  
**[www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/links.htm](http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/links.htm)**

**Sign up for our FREE E-Newsletter**  
**[www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/signup.htm](http://www.SacredSitesJourneys.com/signup.htm)**

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**Love, Peace and Blessings In The Light to Each of YOU!**

**Andrea Mikana-Pinkham and Mark Amaru Pinkham  
and our Sacred Sites Journeys Staff**

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**Sacred Sites Journeys**

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